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Australia
1927



PASPALUM DILATATUM

(Golden Crown Grass)

Write for Samples and Quotations of **Brunning's** "Standard" Paspalum, Grasses, Clovers and Farm Seeds generally. **No Charge is made** for giving information or submitting quotations.

SOME SPECIAL FEATURES OF PASPALUM

1. CAN BE PASTURED, USED FOR GREEN FEED, OR CUT FOR HAY,
2. THOROUGHLY PERENNIAL AND STRONGLY DROUGHT RESISTANT.
3. YIELDS A LARGE AMOUNT OF NUTRITIOUS PALATABLE FODDER.
4. EXCELLENT FOR LATE SPRING, SUMMER AND AUTUMN FEED,
5. A FIRST-CLASS FODDER FOR DAIRY COWS, FATTENING CATTLE, SHEEP and HORSES.
6. GROWS EXCELLENTLY IN MIXTURE WITH OTHER GRASSES OR CLOVERS.

Be sure and purchase hand-stripped seed of Paspalum which has afterwards been properly cleaned by the proper machinery. Although a little higher in price per lb., the **actual cost** per acre is much **less**, as a smaller quantity suffices for seeding, while first quality seed of strong vigorous growth plays an important part in ensuring a really good stand. "**The Best is the Cheapest**," therefore sow only Brunning's Seeds.

BRUNNINGS

(F. H. BRUNNING PTY. LTD.)

3rd Floor, Melbourne Sports Depot Buildings

57 ELIZABETH STREET, MELBOURNE

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ALL ABOUT PASPALUM DILATATUM

1. Q. What is Paspalum Dilatatum?

A. It is a perennial of strong, deep rooting habit, which enables it to become thoroughly established, and on moist ground, under favorable climatic conditions, it is rather hard to eradicate. It is of bunchy or tussocky growth, with leaves numerous near the ground, but very few on the stems. Paspalum Dilatatum is sometimes known as Golden Crown Grass.

2. Q. Where should I purchase the seed?

A. Buy the best, and use only **Brunning's "STANDARD"** Quality, Hand-shaken and Machine-dressed and Tested seed. In order to improve the percentage of germination, **Brunning's** machine-dress all their Paspalum Dilatatum seed before sale, and it can be thoroughly relied on as representing top quality.

3. Q. What is it good for?

A. Paspalum Dilatatum may be used both for **pasture** and as a **hay grass**. It is suitable for grazing dairy cattle, yields a large quantity of herbage palatable to all kinds of stock, and under reasonably congenial weather provides pasture all the year round, with the exception of a short period during the Winter. Being soft and succulent and not wiry like many other grasses, cattle will eat every part of the plant, and when grown for permanent pasture, it **must be kept well eaten down** to preserve its succulency and tenderness, and also to prevent it from growing into objectionable tussocks. Paspalum Dilatatum may also be cut for hay, which especially when the plant is grown in mixture with one of the Clovers, is of very excellent quality.

4. Q. Has it any disadvantages?

A. One is its tendency to spread on ground where it is not wanted, and the other its excessive root development, which, in time, mats the ground to such an extent that the grass is eventually choked and dies off. The former can easily be overcome by laying down only a limited area of Paspalum Dilatatum, and keeping it in check by sowing the nearby portions of the holding with other fodder crops, which require constant cultivation. The excessive root development may be controlled by ploughing and cultivating.

5. Q. Where can it be grown?

A. Providing soil conditions are suitable, Paspalum Dilatatum can be successfully grown in all the States of Australia, with the possible exception of Tasmania, but in colder localities the season of growth is much shorter, although when once established, except under very severe Winter conditions, Paspalum will hold in the ground, and start into growth again with the first evidence of warm weather.

6. Q. What is the most suitable soil, and is any preparation necessary?

A. The plant revels in a deep rich soil, and moisture is essential to success. It will grow splendidly in damp localities, and on swampy or marshy land liable to dry up and crack in the Summer, as owing to its deep rooting habit, the roots penetrate well down into the ground, and are thus able to withstand a fairly long drought, as well as dry, hot Summers.

Where conditions permit, the plant well repays a properly prepared seed bed. Sometimes the seed is sown broadcast on the ashes after a burn, but providing the weather is warm at time of seeding, Paspalum will soon establish itself from seed with very little preparation of the ground.

7. Q. How and when is it sown?

A. Seeding can be carried out from the first rains in March, up to the end of April, and again from the end of August to the middle of October. Late Autumn sowing is, however, inadvisable, as if the soil is cold, the seed is liable to hang in the ground, and may possibly rot; Spring seeding generally gives the best results, as the

ground being warm, germination is speedy, and the plants soon grow and establish themselves.

The seed is very light, somewhat difficult to distribute, and could not be sown through a drill. The general method is to broadcast, mixing the seed with dry sand to ensure even distribution, and sowing at the rate of from 6 to 8 lbs. of **Brunning's** heavy, hand-shaken "**STANDARD**" grade seed per acre.

8. Q. What is the subsequent treatment?

A. When the plants are from 10 to 12 inches high, stock can be turned in for a few days at the rate of 3 or 4 beasts to the acre, and this will help to keep down the weeds until the Paspalum gets a good start. Do not allow the stock to remain too long on the pasture, otherwise the young plants are liable to be eaten down before thoroughly establishing themselves. The paddock can then be given a rest, and in a few weeks will be growing strongly, by which time the roots will have thoroughly established themselves, when the pasture can be kept grazed continuously.

Owing to the excessive root development, which mats to such an extent that it will choke the plants, it is quite possible that after several years the pasture will go off, and will not respond satisfactorily to a top-dressing with fertiliser. At this stage, it will require renewing, and the best method is to plough and sow the ground down in Perennial Ryegrass, Cocksfoot and Mixed Clovers, or some other grass mixture suited to the soil and climatic conditions prevailing.

This mixture will give good results for a certain period, and until the Paspalum again takes possession, or the old Paspalum may be broken up by double disk ploughing twice, three inches deep the first time, and deeper the second, following this by harrowing and cross harrowing. By this means, the roots are sufficiently broken to rejuvenate the pasture, after which top dress with Superphosphate, and then sow some White Dutch or "Tarwei" Strawberry Clover. Paspalum pastures give the best results when they can be heavily stocked to prevent rank growth. Close pasturing also allows for a better development of the plant, and a greater stooling out of any Clovers when sown in mixture.

In the Northern Rivers district of New South Wales, the highest milk yields are secured by those farmers who keep their Paspalum pastured like a turf.

In a moist season, it often happens that Paspalum plants will grow quicker than the stock can keep them eaten down, and in this case the excess growth can be well utilised for hay. The best time to cut is just before the flowers appear, and by this means the woody, fibrous nature of mature Paspalum hay is eliminated. The hay can be readily cured, and when Paspalum is grown in mixture with either White Clover or "**TARWEI**" Strawberry Clover, the result is a mixed hay of excellent quality, very palatable to stock.

9. Q. Does the seed vary in quality?

A. Yes, although it is produced very abundantly it ripens unevenly, and shatters easily, and to get the finest quality with the smallest proportion of immature or unripe seed, it is necessary to hand strip or hand-shake.

10. Q. Is it suitable for inclusion in mixtures?

A. Yes, it does well sown in mixture with Ryegrass, Cocksfoot and Clovers, and under such conditions is usually sown at the rate of 2 lbs. to the acre, the quantity varying according to the ingredients.

Do not include Paspalum in Grass and Clover pastures if grown under irrigation, as the cattle are apt to carry the seed to paddocks where it is not required, and in this way it is liable to become a pest.

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